THE

AERONAUT.

No. 96. Aug. 23. 1817

We do not intend in this number of the Aeronaut to enter at large into the mischiefs of Gambling. they who have observed the [illegible] countenance of a professed Gamester will need no Monitor to advise them against its temptations, but would avoid it as they would shun

the coiled serpent or the approach of bare faced ruin advancing to the destruction of their Prosperity their morals and their happiness - with a wisdom that does honour to their Councils our Legislature have endeavoured to prevent private games of chance and seconded by the voice of the Public they have succeeded not only in making them unlawful but highly disreputable they have banished them in a great measure from private circles & though they may still be supported by the Scavengers and the dregs of Society yet they do not exist in a degree to have any visible effect either on manners or morals

But whilst they have taken proper measures to banish this this publick nuisance with an inconsistency which seems to

belong to Men in their Legislative as well as in their private capacities they have not only suffered - but cherished and encouraged - a system scarcely less mischievous in its nature or deleterious in its effects - We allude to Lotteries licensed by public authority when by a solemn act they have endeavoured to prevent gaming it might reasonably have been expected that they would continue to oppose it and that no considerations of public convenience or profit would have induced them to speak a contrary language whatever declarations have been made upon the subject it would seem from their conduct as if Gambling had been forbidden not because it injured the fortune and the morals of individuals but because they wished to secure so profitable a branch of the follies of the People for the -

purpose of replenishing the State-Treasury they consider them good-expedients for remedying the deficiences of the Budget & had rather see a tax upon morals than upon property - As they do not squander with a liberal hand the amount of taxes levied direct-ly upon the People. they consid-er this fund very much in the same point of view with the proposed Lyceum as particularly devoted to their follies - To substan-tiate these assertions by proof. we might refer to some of the ap-propriations of Lotteries - as for in-stance the Medical Science lot-tery to produce any particular benefit to the healing Art! the Public receive in return for their munificense a few Acres of Barren Land A pretty but not very ~~productive~~ Green House and a tolerably good collection

of Plants - whatever were the intentions of the respectable Physician who founded the Elgin Botanical Garden we are by no means sure but that he has derived a greater share of profit from its sale than the Public ever will from its purchase and although it is considered by some as ornamental and by others as useful to the city yet we confess that we should much behold then, the spot that it occupies covered with its native Woods than that the means for its purchase should have been a speculation upon public morals - there are many other appropriations of the profits arising from Lotteries worthy of being brought before the public but we are satisfied in selecting this one because its effects are still in operation and because it

is immediately under our obs-
servation

If we undertake seriously
to examine this subject we shall
be convenced that although it
may not be productive of that
evil effect to certain individuals
which are occasioned by private
games of chance yet it is per-
haps more injurious to the Pub-
lic at large what is comonly cap-
led gambling occupies but a few
individuals most people avoid
it from principle some from
fear of the consequences but there
are few ~~Individuals~~ Persons who can-
believe any thing wrong licensed
by public authority [illegible] with such
respect and confidence do we
learn to reverence the voice of
our Legislature therefore there-
fore very few who feel any
qualms of conscience as to the
propriety of buying lottery tickets

& the consequence is that almost every member of the Community becomes interested in them if the sums risked in these schemes are small yet they are often an important item in the earnings of the Poor the price of a ticket may be to the amount of a Months labour & risked upon a slight chance of remuneration this may certainly be considered as a serious evil but it is by no means the greatest for the uneasiness of the mind occasioned by any pending event of an interesting nature distracts the attention from the duties of business & engages the whole soul in a tumult of hopes & fears the mind scans the chances & waits as anxiously for the turning of the wheel as for the chances of a game of whist or the effect of a blow with the

when we have reduced business to a system and learnt that by steady perseverance we may reach some wished for object we proceed steadily in the pursuit but the moment that the imagination is engaged in golden dreams the success of which depend upon chance and not upon upon diligence we may bid farewell to all cool resolute and determined application we shall engage ourselves in the anticipation of future blis until we forget that it is sturdy the pen or the plough by which we gain the means of subsistence. from our own observation we are rather inclined to think that even those few who are successful candidates at the wheel of Fortune are seldom benefited

by it that man who has been habituated to any particular mode ~~of habit~~ of life who has moved in a low- rank of Society & been used to constant application would find himself little benefitted by exchanging the hammer or the Lab & store for the luxuries of fortune from want of employment he would be subject to that evil thing called Ennui whose ravages & whose cause we noticed in a former number he could not enjoy the little elegancies of high-life nor would he be calculated to move in its orbit - too rich to continue his former occupation too proud to cultivate his former friendships he would find himself alone in the -

midst of Society. without any
to feel or to sympathize with
him

amongst other evils arising
from the Lottery System may be
mentioned those of Lottery Agents
between the profits of their contracts
on the one hand & the manage
ment of the business on the oth-
er these Men contrive to realize
large sums of money & in the end
generally get rich upon the fol-
lies of the People they are perhaps
worthy of being classed with other
Contractors who first make a good
bargain out of Government & then
by means of many artifices con-
trive to increase their gains by im-
proving on those ~~People~~ Widows Orphans who are unfor-
tunate as to fall into their clut-
ches. these Agents are not sat-
isfied to wait for Public notice
but take every method to attract
attention you meet with glaring
~~advertisements~~ signs at almost every co-
ner of the Streets informing you

of the superior good fortune of a particular office. You can scarce open a Newspaper without finding some flaming advertisement to the same effect & often some pathetic motto or some doggrel verse will invite you to purchase a ticket at the "Lucky" or the truly fortunate office. The practice of insuring at the Lottery Offices is we believe in a considerable degree now done away still we are not sure but that in some places we may still find a few poor Devils betting upon impossible chances & ruining their prospects by wasting time and throwing away money which properly employed would have insured their future fortune

Such are the temptations which the poor the ignorant & unwary have to encounter from the Lottery Agents evils equal to those they endure from the impositions of Medical Quacks - who promise by their nostrums to perform cures

same health & security along a life. the former not only induce them to risk their property upon almost impossible chances but by their various devices injure Morals and rob men of their inclination to be industrious and contented. the latter can only injure our constitutions & shorten our Lives. From the former we cannot expect to receive any return from the latter we at least obtain what we believe to be a Quid pro quo —

W.